

Message Text

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16 S
ACTION EA-10

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P R 190601Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7993
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACAF
JCS WASHDC
AMCONSUL UDORN
COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 14527

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TH
SUBJ: LAOTIAN MAP AIRCRAFT AND TRUCKS AT UDORN

REF: BANGKOK 9507 (NOTAL)

1. THAI SUPREME COMMAND HAS SUPPLIED THE EMBASSY WITH
A COPY OF A NOTE IN FRENCH FROM THE PGNU FOREIGN MINISTRY TO
THE THAI EMBASSY IN VIETIANE CONCERNING MAP-SUPPLIED
LAOTIAN AIRCRAFT AT UDORN AIR BASE. AN INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANS-
LATION OF THE OPERATIVE PORTION OF THE NOTE FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT:
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF NATIONAL UNION PRESENTS IT COMPLIMENTS TO THE ROYAL
THAI EMBASSY AND, AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE, HAS THE HONOR TO BRING TO THE EMBASSY'S
KNOWLEDGE THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT, NOTABLY
C-123'S, O-1'S AND T-28'S, AS WELL AS MILITARY
TRUCKS BELONGING TO THE LAOTIAN NATIONAL ARMED
FORCES, OF WHICH A PRECISE LIST IS ATTACHED, IS
AT THE MILITARY BASE OF CHANGWAT UDORN THANI.
CERTAIN OF THESE AIRCRAFT WERE USED FOR THE TRAIN-
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ING OF LAOTIAN ARMY AND AIR FORCE PILOTS AND OTHERS

WERE SENT THERE FOR REPAIR. PARA APPEALING TO THE SPIRIT OF GOOD UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, PROCLAIMED AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING OF THE MIXED LAO-THAI COMMISSION IN 1975, THE MINISTRY ASKS THE EMBASSY TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO PRESS ITS GOVERNMENT FOR THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RETURN TO THE LAOTIAN GOVERNMENT OF THESE AIRCRAFT AND TRUCKS WHICH ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMED FORCES. END TEXT.

2. AN ATTACHMENT TO THE NOTE LISTS TWO C-123 AIRCRAFT, 15 T-28'S AND THREE O-1'S, ALL WITH TAIL NUMBERS, AND THREE TRUCKS, ONE WATER TRAILER AND ONE WATER TANK, ALL BUT ONE WITH SERIAL NUMBERS.

3. CHIEF OF STAFF, SUPREME COMMAND, GENERAL KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN, ASKED COMUSMACHTAI WHETHER THIS LAOTIAN EQUIPMENT WAS PROVIDED TO LAOS UNDER CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE GOVERNING MAP/MASF EQUIPMENT FOR VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. HE WAS TOLD THIS WAS THE CASE. KRIANGSAK IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD DEAL WITH THE MATTER IN THE SAME FASHION AS THE RTG DEALING WITH HANOI AND SAIGON ON EX-MASF EQUIPMENT. WHILE HE DID NOT SAY SO EXPLICITLY, HIS IMPLICATION WAS THAT HE WOULD TAKE THE POSITION THAT IN VIEW OF COMPETING CLAIMS, THE RTG WOULD HAVE TO STUDY THE MATTER AND WOULD NOT FOR THE PRESENT TURN OVER THE EQUIPMENT TO THE PGNU.

4. SINCE THE MATTER WAS RAISED WITH THE RTG IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, IT WILL PRESUMABLY BE NECESSARY FOR KRIANGSAK TO SELL HIS APPROACH TO THE RTG AS A WHOLE. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IS LIKELY TO SEEK OUR VIEWS SOON.

5. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL, THE SITUATION CONCERNING LAOTIAN MAP-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT IN UDORN IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF EQUIPMENT COMING FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM, SINCE THE U.S. CONTINUES TO RECOGNIZE
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AND MAINTAIN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSWITH THE PGNU. IF THE RTG ADVISES THE PGNU THAT THE U.S. IS CLAIMING TITLE TO THE EQUIPMENT, THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE MAJOR REPERCUSSIONS FOR U.S.-LAOTIAN RELATIONS AS A WHOLE. WE SHOULD THEREFORE ADVISE RTG OF OUR POSITION IMMEDIATELY.

6. THE DEPARTMENT WILL ALSO NOTE THAT TLD UDORN HAS ALREADY BEEN DIESTABLISHED, DEPCHEIF IS DUE

FOR DISESTABLISHMENT AUGUST 15, AND THAI-AM UDORN,
AS IT NOW EXISTS, IS ALSO ON THE WAY OUT. THE
AIRCRAFT REFERRED TO IN THE PGNU NOTE, AND
OTHER LAOTIAN MAP AIRCRAFT NOT MENTIONED THEREIN
(SEE REFTTEL), HAVE BEEN IN THE CUSTODY OF THOSE
ORGANIZATIONS.

7. DEPARTMENT'S EARLIEST INSTRUCTIONS REQUESTED.
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Message Attributes

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